

Welcome back, we hope you have had a restful and enjoyable break.

Spring Term 2025 in Sycamore Class from Mrs Plowman and Mrs Duff

We hope you have had a great Christmas and the children are refreshed and ready for their new learning this term.

Mrs Plowman will continue to teach Sycamore Class Monday-Wednesday and Mrs Duff will continue to teach the class on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Taylor will continue to support learning in our class.

Sycamore Class will attend Forest School on Wednesday afternoons for the first half of the Spring term. They will have PE on Friday afternoons with the sports coach and Music lessons will be on Friday mornings.

We look forward to working with the children and yourselves this term.

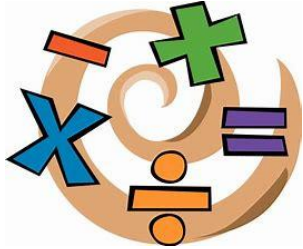
Thank you for your continued support.

Take a look at the 'Latest News' tab on the school website and the school's Facebook page to see regular updates of what Sycamore Class have been learning.

Reading remains a high priority, both in school and at home. Our class reader this term is 'A Mummy Ate My Homework' by Thiago De Moraes. As well as our class book, the children will experience quality books from our reading spine (which can be found on our school website). Children will continue to bring home a book from our reading scheme, plus a choice of their own book from the library. Children should read at home a minimum of 3 times a week. Answering questions and talking about the book is as important as reading the words. Please make sure reading at home is recorded in their reading records as this counts towards our whole school 'Reading Challenge'. We encourage wider reading too, e.g. comics, newspapers, non-fiction, recipes and books from home. We want to foster a love of reading!

Please remember that spelling patterns taught each week in class can be practised on Spelling Frame and that tests will typically be on a Friday morning.

Maths homework is given out on a Monday and is due back in on the following Monday. Please practise times tables at home each week too. Some good websites to use are www.timestables.co.uk and www.topmarks.co.uk. Hit the Button is a particularly good game on the first website. Children will have already brought home this term's KIRFs on paper, these are also available on the school website alongside the knowledge organisers for this term's topics.

English	Maths
<p>Reading is taught within the three big ideas of fluency, comprehension and pleasure.</p> <p>Our guided reading focus text this term is 'Cinderella of the Nile'</p> <p>Writing is taught within the three big ideas of composition, communication and ambition.</p> <p>English, including guided reading, writing, spelling and punctuation and grammar, is taught through a range of different genres and texts throughout the year. We use a five-step approach of: plan it, draft it, revise it, edit it and publish it. This allows the children to see that writing is a process and we can support them through each stage of it to reflect the features expected in the different kinds of writing they need to produce.</p> <p>This term, we will be writing stories with a historical setting and writing instructional texts.</p> <p>Alongside this, we will continue to work on our reading skills, spelling pattern knowledge, grammar and our presentation/ handwriting.</p>	<p>Maths is taught within the three big ideas of fluency, problem solving and reasoning.</p> <p>In Years 3 and 4 this term our areas of study will be:</p> <p>Multiplication and Division</p> <p>Length and Perimeter</p> <p>Fractions</p> <p>Mass and capacity</p> <p>Alongside this, we will be learning and practising our times tables and key instant recall facts (KIRFs).</p> 
Science	History/Geography
<p>Science is taught within the three big ideas of curiosity, investigation and explanation.</p> <p>Spring 1: Living Things and their Habitats - Classification</p> <p>The children will be learning how to recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways; and explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in the local and wider environment.</p> <p>Spring 2: Forces and Magnets</p> <p>The children will learn how to compare how things move on different surfaces; and observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others.</p>	<p>History is taught within the three big ideas of chronology, equality and change.</p> <p>Spring 1: The Ancient Egyptians</p> <p>How much did the Ancient Egyptians achieve?</p> <p>Geography is taught within the three big ideas of location, diversity and environment.</p> <p>Spring 2: Climate and Weather</p> <p>Why is climate important?</p>

Art/D.T.	Computing
<p>Art is taught through the three big ideas of inspiration, experimentation and Expression.</p> <p>Spring 1: Printmaking</p> <p>We will be learning about printmaking techniques this half term with a focus on block printing. We will explore African style prints, taking inspiration from the work of Bisa Butler.</p> <p>Spring 2: Collage</p> <p>In the second half of the term, we will look at collage techniques. We will explore the Pop Art movement with a focus on the artist Andy Warhol.</p>	<p>Computing is taught through the three big ideas of coding, communication and e-safety.</p> <p>Spring 1: Sequencing Sounds</p> <p>Children will explore the concept of sequencing in programming through Scratch. They will be introduced to a selection of motion, sound, and event blocks which they will use to create their own programs, featuring sequences.</p> <p>Spring 2: Branching Databases</p> <p>Children will develop their understanding of what a branching database is and how to create one.</p>
Music	R.E.
<p>Music is taught within the three big ideas of appraisal, practice and performance.</p> <p>Children will continue learning their cornets this term with music teacher Mr Courtney. During these lessons they learn about rhythm, beat and reading music.</p>	<p>R.E. is taught within the three big ideas of faith, understanding an acceptance.</p> <p><i>Big question - Do beliefs make any difference to someone's life?</i></p> <p>Spring 1: Islam</p> <p>The children will look at the Islamic worldview by answering the question, 'How does a Muslim show their submission and obedience to Allah?' They will conclude their thoughts about the big question by considering the worldviews we have looked at so far this year.</p> <p>Spring 2: Christianity</p> <p><i>Big question: What beliefs drive people to make a difference in the world?</i></p> <p>The children will answer the question, 'What do Christians mean when they talk about the Kingdom of God?'</p>

French	P.S.H.E.
<p>French is taught within the three big ideas of culture, understanding and fluency.</p> <p>In French this term, we will be learning about 'Le Pique-nique'. We will be learning the french for different foods and drinks and we will be learning about how to talk about our likes and dislikes linked to food.</p>	<p>PSHE is taught within the three big ideas of responsibility, choice and identity.</p> <p>Living in the Wider World: Children will learn about 'Belonging to a community', 'Media literacy and digital resilience' and 'Money and work'.</p>

A few reminders...

Water Bottles and Snacks

We encourage children to have a water bottle on their tables (with a non-spill lid). Bottles will be taken home at the end of each day to be washed and refilled. Squash and juice are only allowed at lunchtimes. Fruit is not provided for children in Key Stage Two, your child can bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable from home for a snack to be eaten at morning break.

We are here to help!

If you have any concerns, worries or questions please do not hesitate to contact us as soon as these arise. The best way to do this is to speak to the teacher in person at the end of the school day. If this is not possible, or you need to make contact at any other time, please call/email the main office and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.